

Applicants: GARY A. KASPER ET AL.
Title: Upright Extraction Cleaning Machine
U.S. Patent No. 6,286,181
Docket No. 71189-1484
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STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

By the foregoing amendment, new claims 16-30 are added to the application. Claims 1-15 were in the original patent and remain unchanged. Claims 16-30 are patterned after claims 1-15 and find support in the application for the Original Patent as filed in the same manner as claims 1-15. New claims 16 and 21 are similar to claims 1 and 6, respectfully, but have been broadened somewhat to include a scope that Applicants' believe they are entitled. The nature of the broadening is set forth in the Reissue Oath.

Entry of the new claims and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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16. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a base module for movement along a surface and having a front portion and a rear portion;

a brush assembly having an agitation brush generally disposed in the front portion of the base module and mounted therein for substantially vertical reciprocal relative floating movement with respect thereto;

a handle pivotally attached to the rear portion of the base module for movement between an upright position and an inclined position, and including a lower portion having an outer surface;

a fluid recovery system comprising:

a tank having a fluid recovery chamber for holding recovered fluid;

a suction nozzle associated with the base module;

a working air conduit extending between the recovery chamber and the suction nozzle;

a vacuum source in fluid communication with the recovery chamber for generating a flow of working air from the nozzle through the working air conduit and through the recovery chamber to thereby draw dirty liquid from the surface to be cleaned through the nozzle and working air conduit and into the recovery chamber;

a liquid dispensing system comprising:

a liquid dispensing nozzle;

a fluid supply chamber for holding a predetermined amount of supply fluid;

a fluid supply conduit fluidly connected to the fluid supply chamber and to the dispensing nozzle for supplying liquid to the dispensing nozzle;

the improvement comprising:

an elevator assembly including an elevator arm reciprocally mounted to the base module and movable between free and lift positions in response to movement of the upright handle from the inclined position to the upright position;

a first end of the elevator arm is disposed adjacent the brush assembly and is adapted to lift the brush assembly from the surface as the elevator assembly moves between the free and lift

- 30 positions and a second end of the arm is engageable with the handle for moving the elevator assembly between the free and lift positions as the handle moves between the inclined and upright positions;

whereby pivoting the upright handle from the inclined position to the upright position is translated into movement of the agitation brush away from the surface to be cleaned.

17. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first end of the elevator arm has a lifting surface for upwardly pivoting the pivot arm and the lifting surface is a ramp that slides along a bottom surface of the pivot arm.

18. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 17 and further comprising a spring that biases the elevator arm toward the handle.

19. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second end of the elevator arm abuts the outer surface of the lower portion of the handle in the upright position.

20. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the agitation brush is pivotally mounted to the first end of the elevator arm.

21. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:
a base module for movement along a surface to be cleaned and having a front portion and a rear portion;

- 5 a brush assembly having an agitation brush generally disposed in the front portion of the base module for contact with the surface to be cleaned and a support arm for supporting the agitation brush for free floating vertical movement relative to the base module;

a handle pivotally attached to the rear portion of the base module for movement between an upright position and an inclined position;

a dirt collector for holding recovered dirt;

- 10 a suction nozzle associated with the base module;
 a working air conduit extending between the dirt collector and the suction nozzle;
 a vacuum source in fluid communication with the dirt collector for generating a flow of
working air from the nozzle through the working air conduit and into the dirt collector to thereby
draw dirt and debris from the surface to be cleaned through the nozzle and working air conduit
15 and into the dirt collector;
 the improvement comprising:
 an elevator reciprocally mounted to the base module and movable between free and lift
positions in response to movement of the upright handle from the inclined position to the upright
position;
20 a first end of the elevator is disposed adjacent the support arm and is adapted to lift the
support arm from the surface as the elevator moves between the rear and forward positions and a
second end of the elevator is engageable with the handle for moving the elevator between the
free and lift positions as the handle moves between the inclined and upright positions;
 whereby pivoting the upright handle from the inclined position to the upright position is
25 translated into movement of the agitation brush away from the surface to be cleaned.

22. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 21 wherein
the elevator includes an elevator arm that has a forward end that is disposed adjacent the
support arm and is adapted to lift the support arm from the surface to be cleaned as the
elevator moves between the rear and forward positions

23. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 22 wherein
the support arm is pivotally mounted to the base module.

24. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 23 wherein a
first end of the support arm is mounted to the agitation brush and a second end of the pivot
arm is pivotally mounted to the base module.

25. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the forward end of the elevator arm has a lifting surface for lifting the support arm and the lifting surface is a ramp that slides along a bottom surface of the pivot arm.

26. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the elevator arm has a second end that abuts the outer surface of the lower portion of the handle in the upright position.

27. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 22 and further comprising a spring that biases the elevator rearwardly.

28. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the agitation brush is pivotally mounted to the support arm.

29. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the support arm is pivotally mounted to the base module.

30. (new) A portable surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 21 wherein a first end of the support arm is mounted to the agitation brush and a second end of the pivot arm is pivotally mounted to the base module.